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Human Rights Commission Minutes 06/17/2005

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes – Final June 16, 2005

In Attendance: Sheri Baron, Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Victoria Cohen, Christine Deshler, A. Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Bill Shea

Absent:
 Nancy Sweeney

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m.

The May minutes were approved with minor changes.

1. Community Open Forum – Mark Rosenthal was a guest this evening and spoke of his concerns for the proper handling of domestic violence issues – asked for suggestions on how the Commission can help in handling these issues Nick Minton would consider a dialogue forum in town set up by the Commission representing two sides of the problem – the presentation would be used as an outreach and education – the individual approach as well as the legal approach on this subject should matter - there was reference to use the made for TV movie, “Men Don’t Tell” as a possibility - Mr. Rosenthal will work with Nancy Rhoads with his concerns and ideas on how the Commission will address the issue.

2. Recent Incidents – *May 22nd* – civil rights infraction incident

May 24th – racial incident

May 31st – egg throwing – racial incident

June 1st – National Alliance pamphlets distributed

June 8th - Boston School system phone complaint

After much discussion regarding these recent incidents the Commission is very concerned and is considering creating a form type letter to reach out to victims of incidents to make them aware of the AHRC inviting them to share their experience at our monthly meeting, “Community Forum,” if they so wish – this letter would be used as an educational tool to victims and a copy of our brochure would be included in this mailing.

3. **“Human Rights Everyday Hero Award”** – Sheri Baron suggested the Commission to consider an award to citizens - suggested doing this in the Fall of this year – this award would be a Profile in Courage type of award – make it a select group – have a formal presentation – some suggestions were already considered – Christine Deshler thinks there are a lot of people who would qualify – we just don’t know who they are – consideration would be geared to Human Rights issues.

4. **Dialogue with Ed Flynn** – the Commission would like to reschedule an “Evening with Ed Flynn” for some time in the near future.

5. **Sensitivity Training follow-up** – Vita Cohen asked the Commission to review her latest draft of the flyer she is working on and Nancy Rhoads volunteered to format it as a three fold for print.

6. Other Business -

The Commission will sign up for a booth at Town Day Sept. 17th

Nancy Rhoads expressed her concern for reports of a few incidents at the Ottoson and questioned if the Commission should reach out to the targeted families and let them know that we are here for them.

Sheri Baron suggested a new sub-committee be formed to begin establishing a relationship in the schools to indicate that we would like to be supportive - she also suggested we invite the new principal and superintendent to come to a meeting

*Prepared by:
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